

## A REVISION OF THE SHORE FLY GENUS *HOMALOMETOPUS* BECKER (DIPTERA: EPHYDRIDAE)

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*Abstract.*—Species of the genus *Homalometopus* (type-species: *H. albiditinctus* Becker) are revised and now comprise six species of which four are new: *H. castaneus* (Israel), *H. corfuensis* (Greece), *H. ibericus* (Spain), *H. lukinatcha* (Senegal). One species, *H. platycephalus* (Becker, new combination, Tunisia, previously a synonym of *H. albiditinctus*), is resurrected from synonymy. *Homalometopus* is an Old World genus with a primarily circum-Mediterranean distribution but with extensions along the coast of West Africa (Senegal) and along the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba). The genus is halophilous, occurring mostly in coastal areas but also inland, where saline conditions exist.

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While conducting field work in Israel for a faunal study of the Ephyridae of the Middle East (Fauna Palestina Series), two species of the genus *Homalometopus* Becker were collected. Becker (1926) treated only one species in the most recent revision of the genus, and I became interested in discovering if that species were represented by any of the specimens from Israel. The present study developed from that research.

*Homalometopus*, with *H. albiditinctus* Becker as type-species, was described early in this century (Becker 1903) from specimens collected at Port Said, Egypt. Since then, the genus has received meager attention. In 1907 Becker described a related genus and species from specimens collected in Tunisia, which he appropriately named *Tunisia platycephala*. Later, however, Becker (1926) considered that species to be conspecific with *H. albiditinctus*. Several years afterward, Collin (1949) published an excellent diagnosis for *Homalometopus* and also pointed out inaccuracies in the illustrations and text of Becker (1926). Collin's only lapse was his statement that no prescutellar bristles, except the dorsocentrals, are present. The lapse resulted from not having access to species of the genus other than *H. albiditinctus*, the only species of *Homalometopus* lacking these bristles. After Collin, no further taxonomic work has appeared on the genus.

Beyond taxonomic works, there are a few publications providing new distributional data for the genus. In each case, however, the authors failed to recognize that they were dealing with mostly undescribed species, which were misidentified as *H. albiditinctus*. Czerny and Strobl (1909) reported *H. albiditinctus* (= *H. ibericus*, new species) from the Mediterranean coast of Spain; Soika (1956), in a study of animal populations of the Sahara, published a distributional map of *H. albiditinctus* (= four species), outlining its circum-Mediterranean distribution; and Canzoneri (1981) reported the occurrence of *H. albiditinctus* (= *H. lukinatcha*, new species) from Senegal.

The descriptive terminology used here follows that published in the recent *Manual of Nearctic Diptera*, Vol. 1 (McAlpine 1981) with one exception. I have followed Sabrosky (in press) in using "microtomentum" rather than pruinescence

or pollinosity for the dustlike vestiture over much of the cuticular surface. The dustlike appearance is the result of cuticular microtrichia at various densities, not a waxy substance as on a plum (pruinescence), or dust (pollinosity). The scutellar ratio used in the descriptions is defined as the scutellar length/scutellar width as measured between the two basal scutellar creases. All ratios are averages of three specimens. In quoting information on labels, I have cited data as they appear, with clarifying or interpretive remarks in brackets. A double set of quotation marks is used to distinguish data occurring on one label from those on another.

Acronyms used in the text, to indicate depositories of specimens, are as follows: BMNH, British Museum (Natural History), London, England; DCSA, Diptera Collectionis Strobl, Admont; DEI, former Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, collections in the Institut für Pflanzenschutzforschung, Zweigstelle Eberswalde, Abteilung Taxonomie der Insekten, Eberswalde, DDR; HU, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, DDR; MCV, Museo civico di Storia Naturale de Venezia, Italy; NMW, Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria; TAU, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel; USNM, former United States National Museum, collections in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

### *Homalometopus* Becker

*Homalometopus* Becker, 1903:175 [type-species: *Homalometopus albiditinctus* Becker, by monotypy].—Becker, 1905:205 [palaeartic catalog].—1926:95–96 [revision].

*Tunisia* Becker, 1907:399 [type-species: *Tunisia platycephala* Becker, by monotypy].—Becker, 1926:95 [synonymy].

*Homalometopon* [sic].—Collin, 1949:215 [generic diagnosis, discussion].

*Diagnosis*.—Small to moderately small shore flies, length 1.55 to 2.60 mm.

*Head*: Wider than high; mesofrons prominent as a rectangular, well-sclerotized plate, lateral margins parallel sided, anterior margin broadly rounded, sparsely but evenly setose, setae dark and conspicuous, with 1 slightly larger seta inserted laterally, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  distance back from anterior margin, mostly microtomentose but less so posteriorly, especially around ocelli; ocellar bristles lacking; 3 fronto-orbital setae, anterior 2 proclinate, posterior seta with laterocline to reclinate orientation; ocelli arranged to form an equilateral or isosceles triangle and with distance between posterior pair slightly larger; arista with ciliate fringe above and below; face most prominent between antennae, appearing swollen, otherwise face evenly arched transversely, with 2–4 conspicuous facial setae laterally in row nearly parallel to facial suture; eye broadly oval, setulose; gena high, over half eye height; clypeus generally exposed as a broad band; prementum normally developed, small, not unusually projected.

*Thorax*: Entirely microtomentose, mostly gray but frequently with some brownish coloration dorsally. Chaetotaxy, generally weakly developed, as follows: acrostichal setulae in 2–4 rows, frequently 1 prescutellar acrostichal bristle well developed; only 1 posterolateral dorsocentral bristle, dorsocentral setulae slightly larger than acrostichal setulae; 1 prominent presuteral seta; 1 postalar seta; 2 scutellar bristles, scutellum sparsely setulose dorsally; 1 postpronotal seta, although sometimes lacking; 2 notopleural setae, both inserted at about same level;

1 anepisternal seta. Legs with femora and tibiae similar in coloration and vestiture to pleural area, first 4 tarsomeres pale, yellowish, apical one dark. Wing with veins pale and membrane lightly milky white; costal vein ratio approximately 0.25; M vein ratio approximately 0.40; alula well developed.

Abdomen: Microtomentose, mostly grayish; terga 2–4 about equal in size, narrow; 5th tergum of male longer or as long as wide, lateral margin slightly angled inwardly, posterior angle broadly rounded; 5th tergum of female about as long as combined length of 3rd and 4th terga but lateral margins angled sharply inward forming acutely-pointed posterior angle. Male terminalia as follows: epandrium, in posterior view, shaped like inverted U, with arms short, not extended ventrally below level of cerci; cerci oblong, 2–3 times longer than wide; surstylus long and relatively narrow, shape and length varying with species; aedeagus a simple sclerotized tube with apical membranous portion folding back on sclerotized portion; aedeagal apodeme, in lateral view, triangular to lunate; hypandrium a broad, lightly sclerotized plate attached basally to aedeagal apodeme and base of surstyli. Female abdomen and terminalia as follows: segments 1–5 with terga well developed, wide and long, slightly narrowed ventrally; segments 6–7 with terga and sterna formed into narrow, fairly elongate tube; 8th segment and epiproct apparently lacking; hypoproct cordiform distally, pointed proximally, basal lobes setose; cerci broad, lobes rounded, setose; a narrow, sclerotized band between cerci and hypoproct. Female ventral receptacle with operculum comparatively much larger than extended process, helmet-shaped with ventral extension, asymmetrical in lateral view, symmetrical in frontal view, dorsum much wider, opercular opening ventrolateral; extended process apparently lacking cervix, corpus reduced to 2 footlike, basal processes.

*Distribution.*—Old World. Circum-Mediterranean (Egypt, Libya, Spain, Italy, Greece, Israel), Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba), and west coast of Africa (Senegal).

*Natural History.*—Species of *Homalometopus* are halophilous, occurring on beaches of marine or inland saline areas. The immature stages are unknown. Adults are collected infrequently, although they may be abundant locally if the habitat is sampled properly. The cryptic coloration of adults makes them difficult to observe on a sandy background of similar coloration.

*Discussion.*—The genus *Homalometopus* belongs in the tribe Atissini, subfamily Psilopinae, where it is closely related to *Glenanthe* Haliday, and *Paraglenanthe* Wirth. As in the latter two genera, the arista is brushlike with ciliate fringe of about equal length above and below.

*Homalometopus* is distinct from other genera of Atissini, and its monophyly is established by the following characters.

1. Mesofrons distinct from remainder of frons as a conspicuous, well-sclerotized, rectangular plate that is bluntly rounded anteriorly, and sparsely setose.
2. Mesofrons with 1 seta that is slightly longer than the others and is inserted laterally, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the distance back from the anterior margin.
3. Ocellar setae lacking.
4. Fronto-orbital setae 3, anterior 2 setae proclinate, posterior seta laterocline to reclinate in orientation.
5. Katepisternal bristle either lacking or much reduced and pale.
6. Basotarsomeres uniformly long, their length subequal to combined length of other tarsomeres.

7. Great similarity of structure of male terminalia (see generic description and figures).

Key to Species of *Homalometopus* Becker  
(Primarily for males)

1. Prescutellar acrostichal bristles lacking or not evident, all acrostichal setae short and subequal in length (Egypt, Israel, Libya) . . . *H. albiditinctus* Becker
- Prescutellar acrostichal bristles conspicuous, distinctly longer than other acrostichal setae . . . . . 2
2. Mesonotum and posterior portion of frons a golden brown color (Israel) . . . . . *H. castaneus*, new species
- Mesonotum and posterior portion of frons mostly grayish, if brownish coloration evident, it is very pale . . . . . 3
3. Surstylus, in posterior view, longer than combined width across basal portions of surstyli . . . . . 4
- Surstylus, in posterior view, shorter than combined width across basal portions of surstyli . . . . . 5
4. Surstylus, in lateral view (Fig. 13), with taper of anterior and posterior margins about even, anteroapical portion angulate, posteroapical portion rounded; apex spatulate (Greece) . . . . . *H. corfuensis*, new species
- Surstylus, in lateral view (Fig. 15), with posterior margin straight, anterior margin parallel with posterior margin except for abrupt taper at apical  $\frac{1}{4}$  to narrower apex (Spain) . . . . . *H. ibericus*, new species
5. Surstylus, in lateral view, with slightly recurved, subfalcate apex (Senegal, Spain) . . . . . *H. lukinatcha*, new species
- Surstylus, in lateral view, with posterior margin nearly straight, not recurved, anterior margin with a prominent swelling at midlength (Tunisia) . . . . . *H. platycephalus* (Becker)

*Homalometopus albiditinctus* Becker

Figs. 1-8

*Homalometopus albiditinctus* Becker, 1903:175.—Becker, 1905:205 [palaeartic catalog]; 1926:96 [in part, revision, figures of head].—Soika, 1956:113 [distribution map, list, Touggourt: Bahr Mahdjoub and Temacine].—Steyskal, 1968: 113 [list, Egypt: Salum, Dekheila, Maryut, Halaib, Hurghada, Amria, figures of head].

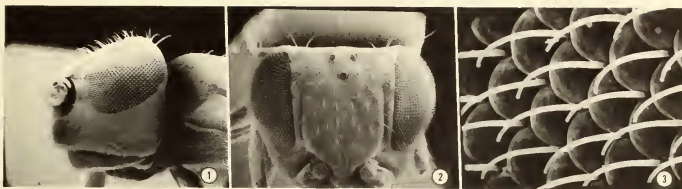
*Homalometopon* [sic] *albiditinctus*.—Collin, 1949:215 [discussion, Libya: Khamissa, Siwa].

*Diagnosis*.—Small to moderately small shore flies, length 1.65 to 2.20 mm.

Head (Figs. 1-5): Frons mostly gray to very slightly brownish grey.

Thorax (Fig. 6): Mesonotum mostly gray, some specimens with some brownish coloration. Prescutellar acrostichal bristles lacking. Scutellum short, posterior margin bluntly rounded; scutellar ratio 0.75.

Abdomen: Male terminalia (Figs. 7-8) as follows: epandrium with arms of inverted U more or less parallel; surstylus long and slender, over 5 times longer than wide, margins nearly parallel-sided in both posterior and lateral views, only base enlarged, apex evenly rounded.



Figs. 1–3. *Homalometopus albiditinctus*. 1, Head, lateral view; 2, Head, dorsal view; 3, Setulae of eye.

*Type material*.—Lectotype female, herein designated, is labelled “[Egypt] Port. Said. 45022. IV [handwritten]” “albiditinctus. Beck. [handwritten]” “Typus [red]” “LECTOTYPE [red print] ♀ *Homalometopus albiditinctus* Becker By W. N. Mathis [name handwritten, black subborder].” Paralectotype female, herein designated, bears the same label data as the lectotype. The lectotype is mounted on a minuten nadel in a foam rectangle, is in good condition, and is housed in the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, DDR.

*Other specimens examined*.—LIBYA. Khamissa, 29 Jun 1935, J. Omer-Cooper (2 ♂, 6 ♀; BMNH). Sitra, 14 Jun 1935, J. Omer-Cooper (1 ♂; BMNH). EGYPT. Solloum, 11 Aug 1926, Kasim and Tewfik (4 ♂, 3 ♀; USNM). Sinai: Ofira, 22 Mar 1981, A. Freidberg (5 ♂; TAU); Quseima, 24 May 1981, W. N. Mathis (5 ♂, 7 ♀; USNM). ISRAEL. Sinai: Ras Burka, 23 Mar 1980, A. Freidberg and W. N. Mathis (1 ♀; USNM); Solar Lake, 14 km S Eilat, 23 May 1980, W. N. Mathis and A. Freidberg (32 ♂, 22 ♀; USNM). Kalia, 20 Mar 1980, W. N. Mathis and A. Freidberg (3 ♂, USNM). Ne’ot Ha’Kikar, 21 Mar 1980, A. Freidberg and W. N. Mathis (2 ♂, 5 ♀; USNM).

*Distribution*.—Eastern Mediterranean (Egypt, Israel, Libya) and Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba: Ofira [Egypt], Ras Burka [Israel]). Many of the localities noted above are inland saline areas, such as along the Dead Sea (Kalia and Ne’ot Ha’Kikar). This is the most widespread species of the genus.

*Remarks*.—This species is the most easily recognized of the genus. Both sexes are most readily distinguished from congeners by the lack of a distinct pair of prescutellar acrostichal bristles. The shape of the various structures of the male terminalia are also diagnostic as illustrated and described.

#### *Homalometopus castaneus*, new species

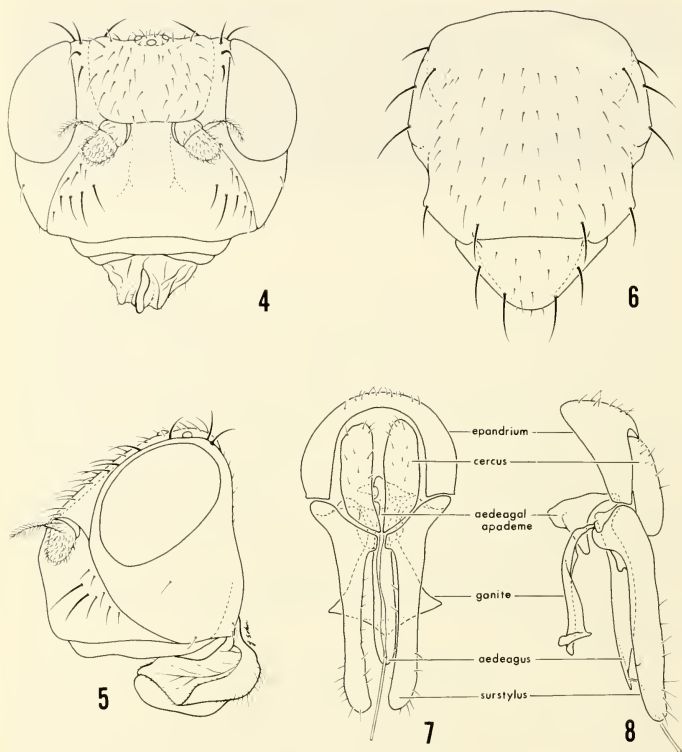
Figs. 9–11

*Diagnosis*.—Small to moderately small shore flies, length 1.90 to 2.60 mm.

Head: Frons with posterior portion and area of vertex surrounding ocelli brownish, contrasted with grayish anterior portion of frons.

Thorax (Fig. 9): Prescutellar acrostichal setae well developed, subequal in length to posterior dorsocentral setae. Mesonotum mostly brownish to golden brown. Scutellum long and with apex more acutely angulate; scutellar ratio 0.85.

Abdomen: Male terminalia (Figs. 10–11) as follows: epandrium with arms of inverted U slightly flared. Surstylus moderately long, tapered, in posterior view,



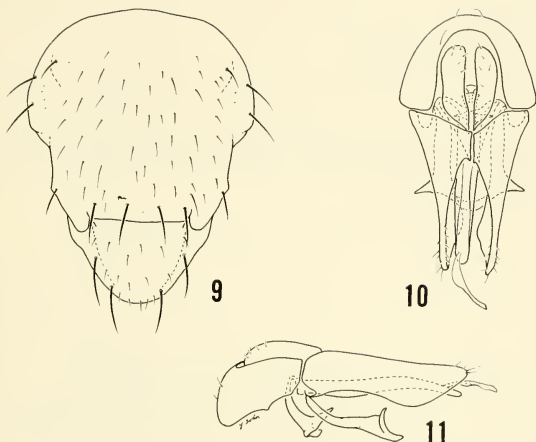
Figs. 4–8. *Homalometopus albiditinctus*. 4, Head, anterior view; 5, Head, lateral view; 6, Thorax, dorsal view; 7, Male genitalia, posterior view; 8, Male genitalia, lateral view.

to a narrow process; in lateral view, with anterior margin very slightly flared outward to form subapical enlargement, thereafter tapered inward to acutely rounded apex.

*Type material*.—Holotype male is labelled “ISRAEL. Akhziv, 20 Aug 1982, A. Freidberg.” Allotype female and 51 paratypes (20 ♂, 31 ♀; TAU, USNM) bear the same label data as the holotype. Other paratypes as follows: ISRAEL. Rosh Haniqra, 2–3 Jun 1981–1982, A. Freidberg (2 ♂, 3 ♀; TAU, USNM). The holotype is mounted on a minuten nadel in a polyporus block, is in excellent condition, and is housed in the insect collection of Tel-Aviv University, Israel.

*Distribution*.—Levantian (Israel).





Figs. 9–11. *Homalometopus castaneus*. 9, Thorax, dorsal view; 10, Male genitalia, posterior view; 11, Male genitalia, lateral view.

*Remarks.*—This species is distinguished from *H. albiditinctus* by the presence of prescutellar acrostichal bristles. From the other congeners, it can be distinguished only by reference to structures of the male terminalia (see species description and figures).

*Homalometopus corfuensis*, new species

Figs. 12–13

*Diagnosis.*—Small to moderately small shore flies, length 1.85 to 2.15 mm.

Head: Frons more or less uniformly colored, mostly gray to very lightly tannish gray anteriorly.

Thorax: Prescutellar acrostichal setae well developed, subequal in length to posterior dorsocentral setae. Mesonotum mostly gray, some specimens with some brownish coloration. Scutellum short and bluntly rounded; scutellar ratio 0.75.

Abdomen: Male terminalia (Figs. 12–13) as follows: epandrium with arms of inverted U distinctly flared outward; surstylus moderately long and slender, tapered gradually, in posterior view, to an acutely rounded apex; in lateral view, with anterior margin tapered inward from base to just before middle, thereafter slightly flared outward to bluntly rounded apex.

*Type material.*—The holotype male is labelled “ISOLA CORFU” Sotioriotisa (Konkodali) Salicornieto, terr. nudo 22-VIII-57 A. G. Soika” “HOLOTYPE *Homalometopus corfuensis* Mathis [handwritten, red].” The holotype is glued to a paper point, is in good condition, and is housed in the Museo civico di Storia Naturale, Venezia (Venice, Italy). The allotype female and 16 other paratypes (13

♂, 1 ♀, 2?; BMNH, MCV, USNM) bear the same locality label data as the holotype. Other paratypes are as follows: GREECE. Thrace: Porto Lago, 1 Jun 1961, A. G. Soika (3 ♂, 25 ♀, MCV, USNM).

*Distribution.*—This species is known from Greece (Island of Corfu and Thrace [Porto Lago]).

*Remarks.*—This species is easily distinguished from *H. albiditinctus* by the presence of a pair of well-developed prescutellar acrostichal setae. From other congeners, however, it differs only in structural details of the male terminalia (see figures and description).

*Homalometopus ibericus*, new species

Figs. 14–17

*Homalometopus albiditinctus* non Becker, Soika, 1956:113–114 [misidentification].

*Diagnosis.*—Small to moderately small shore flies, length 1.95 to 2.35 mm.

Head: Frons mostly gray to slightly brownish gray in color.

Thorax: Prescutellar acrostichal setae well developed, subequal in length to posterior dorsocentral setae. Mesonotum mostly gray, some specimens with some brownish coloration. Scutellum long and moderately rounded apically; scutellar ratio 0.85.

Abdomen: Male terminalia (Figs. 14–17) as follows: epandrium with arms of inverted U slightly flared outward; surstylus moderately long, slender, basal  $\frac{1}{2}$  tapered gradually, apical  $\frac{1}{2}$  more or less parallel sided, apex bluntly rounded, subspatulate; surstylus, in lateral view, with basal  $\frac{3}{4}$  somewhat parallel sided, thereafter abruptly narrowed to parallel-sided apex.

*Type material.*—The holotype male is labelled “SPAGNA ALICANTE saline barene 21-VII[Jul]-[19]54 A. Giordani Soika” “HOLOTYPE *Homalometopus ibericus* Mathis [handwritten, red].” The holotype is glued to a paper point, is in good condition, and is housed in the Museo civico di Storia Naturale, Venezia (Venice, Italy). The allotype female and 31 paratypes (17 ♂, 17 ♀; MCV, USNM) bear the same locality label data as the holotype. Other paratypes are as follows: SPAIN. Murcia: Mar Menor, San Javier (Oued che muore in apiaggia terr. nudo), 24 Jul 1954, A. G. Soika (1 ♂, 8 ♀, MCV, USNM).

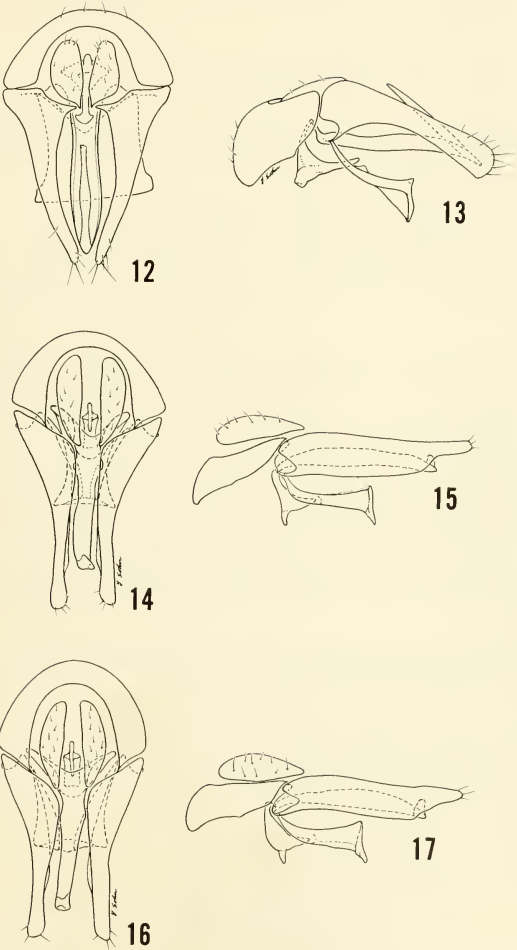
*Other specimens examined.*—SPAIN. Murcia: Cartagena (Capo de Palos), 22 Jul 1954, A. G. Soika (3 ♂, 2 ♀; MCV, USNM).

*Distribution.*—This species is known from the Mediterranean coast of Spain (provinces of Alicante and Murcia).

*Remarks.*—This species is easily distinguished from *H. albiditinctus* by the presence of a pair of well-developed prescutellar acrostichal setae. From other congeners, however, it can only be distinguished by characters of the male terminalia (see figures and description).

Slight variation is apparent in the shape of the surstylus of this species. In lateral view, the surstylus of the paratype males has an abrupt taper at the apical  $\frac{3}{4}$ , followed by a narrow, parallel-sided, apical process (Fig. 15). In males from Cartagena, the taper at the apical  $\frac{3}{4}$  is not as abrupt, and the apical process is slightly tapered, not parallel sided (Fig. 17). The latter series could represent





Figs. 12–17. Male genitalia. 12, *Homalometopus corfuensis*, posterior view; 13, *H. corfuensis*, lateral view; 14, *H. ibericus* (paratopotype); 15, *H. ibericus* (paratopotype); 16, *H. ibericus* (Spain: Cartagena); 17, *H. ibericus* (Spain: Cartagena).

another species, although without more specimens and data I consider this series to be conspecific with the type series.

*Homalometopus lukinatcha*, new species

Figs. 18–19

*Homalometopus albiditinctus*, non Becker, Czerny and Strobl, 1909:270 [misidentification list, Spain. Cadiz Province: Algeciras].—Canzoneri, 1981:214 [misidentification list, Senegal: Kaolac].

*Diagnosis*.—Small to moderately small shore flies, length 1.55 to 2.35 mm.

Head: Frons mostly gray to slightly brownish gray in color.

Thorax: Prescutellar acrostichal setae well developed, subequal in length to posterior dorsocentral setae. Mesonotum mostly gray, some specimens with some brownish coloration. Scutellum long and moderately rounded apically; scutellar ratio 0.85.

Abdomen: Male terminalia (Figs. 18–19) as follows: epandrium with arms of inverted U slightly flared outward; surstylus moderately short, triangular, tapered gradually, in posterior view, to an acutely rounded apex; surstylus in lateral view, with anterior and posterior margins slightly sinuate, margin more or less straight on basal  $\frac{2}{3}$ , thereafter tapered to posterior margin, forming an acutely rounded apex, posterior margin shallowly falcate.

*Type material*.—The holotype male is labelled "SENEGAL Kaolac fiume salm. Saolun 27-VI-[19]73 A. G[iordani] Soika" "HOLOTYPE *Homalometopus lukinatcha* Mathis [handwritten, red]." The holotype is mounted on a minuten nadel in a polyporus block, is in excellent condition, and is housed in the Museo civico di Storia Naturale, Venezia (Venice, Italy). The allotype female and 47 paratypes (18 ♂, 29 ♀; MCV, USNM) bear the same locality label data as the holotype. Other paratype are as follows: SPAIN. Cadiz: Algeciras, L. Czerny (1 ♂; NMW).

*Distribution*.—This species is known from the Mediterranean coast of Spain (Cadiz Province) and the coast of west Africa.

*Remarks*.—This species is easily distinguished from *H. albiditinctus* by the presence of a pair of well-developed prescutellar acrostichal setae. From its other congeners, however, reference only to characters of the male terminalia will distinguish them (see figures and description).

In the NMW there is a female from the San Fernando Mountains (Spain) that is probably conspecific, but without a male specimen, the determination is tentative.

The species epithet is a noun in apposition.

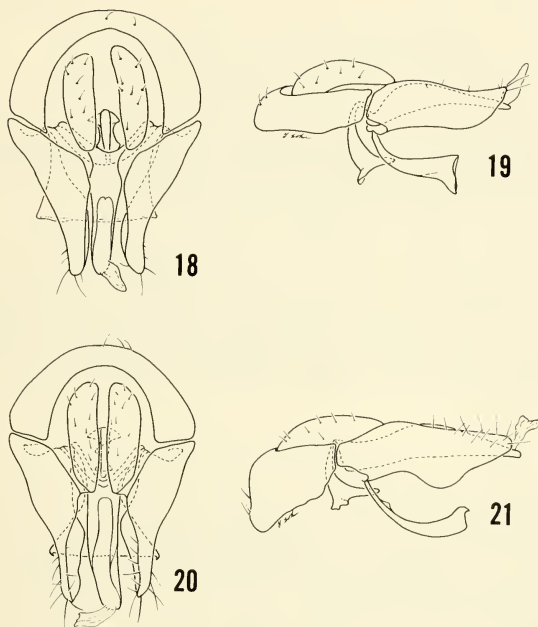
*Homalometopus platycephalus* (Becker), new combination

Figs. 20–21

*Tunisia platycephala* Becker, 1907:400 [Tunisia: Tunis (May)].—Becker, 1926: 96 [in part, misidentification, synonymy with *H. albiditinctus*].

*Diagnosis*.—Moderately small shore flies, length 2.20 to 2.27 mm.

Head: Frons mostly a uniform gray to slightly brownish gray.



Figs. 18–21. Male genitalia. 18, *Homalometopus lukinatcha*, posterior view; 19, *H. lukinatcha*, lateral view; 20, *H. platycephalus*, posterior view; 21, *H. platycephalus*, lateral view.

Thorax: Prescutellar acrostichal setae well developed, subequal in length to posterior dorsocentral setae. Mesonotum mostly gray, some specimens with some brownish coloration. Scutellum long, moderately rounded apically; scutellar ratio 0.86.

Abdomen: Male terminalia (Figs. 20–21) as follows: epandrium with arms of inverted U distinctly flared outward; surstylus moderately long, triangular, tapered gradually, in posterior view, to acutely rounded apex; in lateral view, with anterior margin enlarged near middle, thereafter tapered to form a rounded apex, posterior margin with basal  $\frac{1}{3}$  flared outward, thereafter straight.

*Type material*. — Lectotype male, herein designated, is labelled “[Tunisia: Tunis] La Marsa 52938. [handwritten]” “Typus [red]” “LECTOTYPE Tunisia platycephala Becker By W. N. Mathis [handwritten, red].” The lectotype is mounted on a minuten nadel in a foam rectangle (there is also a second but bare minuten nadel in the foam block), is in good condition, and is housed in the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, DDR. I have also examined two male

and two female paralectotypes (HU, USNM) that have identical label data as the lectotype.

*Distribution.*—This species is known from the type series only.

*Remarks.*—Until this study, *H. platycephalus* was considered to be a junior synonym of *H. albiditinctus*, although previously Becker (1907) had given separate generic and species status to this species. Later, Becker (1926) synonymized *Tunisia* with *Homalomotopus* and considered their type species to be conspecific. The distinctiveness of *H. platycephalus* is quite evident based particularly on the male terminalia (see diagnosis and figures) of the type series.

### Acknowledgments

For reviewing a draft of this paper, I thank George C. Steyskal, R. V. Petersen, and Oliver S. Flint, Jr. The illustrations were prepared by Young Sohn. I am also grateful to the following curators and their respective institutions for the loan of valuable specimens: Brian H. Cogan, BMNH; Gunter Morge, DCSA and DEI; H. Schumann, HU; Silvano Canzoneri, MCV; O. Aspöck and Ruth Contreras-Lichtenberg, NMW; Amnon Freidberg, TAU.

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